Strategy for corporatisation of major ports

555. SHRI C. P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated a strategy to make major ports run like independent profit centres;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have invited suggestions on the strategy from Industrial Chambers and Port users;

(d) if so, the details of the suggestions made; and

(e) the development made towards corporatisation of ports.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPING (SHRI SU.THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) to (e) Efforts are made on a continuous basis to improve the working of major ports and to facilitate them in taking prompt decisions in a commercial environment. Government has decided to corporatise Major Ports in a phased manner. At present, Major Port Trusts are required to prepare Annuals Statement of income and expenditure, which merely shows operating surplus and they do not maintain accounts on commercial lines; nor do they maintain profit and loss accounts. Corporatisation of major ports would make profit and loss statements mandatory and will lead to the establishment of commercial accounting practices, creation of profit centres and drawing up of balance sheets. Major Port Trust (Amendment) Bill, 2001 has been introduced in the Parliament which seeks to amend Major Port Trusts Act, 1963 to enable the Government to corporatize existing 11 Major Ports. The said Bill stands referred to the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport and Tourism for examination and report. The 12 Major Port at Ennor has been set up as a corporate entity under the Companies Act, 1956. Consultation with the Industries Chamber, Port users, Port operators etc., is a continuous process.

Sale of surplus land by certain ports

556. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Mumbai and Kolkata Port Trusts have been authorised to sell huge tracts of their surplus land;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the present status of their sale process;

(c) whether their persepective plans for future expansion of the ports have been reviewed and details of the procedure adopted to indentify the specific plots of land considered surplus; and

(d) the details of the revised policy guidelines issued, including the formula adopted for evaluation of land and other assets, if any, appurtenant thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The development and expansion of ports and port dependent activities in the areas and utilization of port land is a continuous process and is linked with the development in future. The plans for future expansion of ports are reviewed from time to time.

(d) The policy guidelines were last revised in July, 2001 in regard to transfer of leases, waiver of Minimum Guarantee Throughput, Flexibility in land use etc.

Reservation for destitute children in educational institutions

557. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to make any special provision including reservation of seats in educational institutions for destitute or orphaned children who have been brought up by voluntary organisations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (c) The Government has formulated a programme for universal elementary education titled "Sarva Shiksha Abhihyan" (SSA). The SSA programme, to be implemented by the Department of Elementary Education and Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development, is an attempt of the Government to provide an opportunity